

REMARKS

Claims 1-10, 12-18 and 20-23 are pending. Applicants elect Group II (claims 7-10) for examination on the merits, with traverse. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute nonelected subject matter in a further patent application.

Claim amendments have been made to conform to U.S. practice for identifying nucleotide sequences.

Reconsideration of the restriction requirement is requested.

Traversal is based on the lack of a showing that examining claims of Groups I to IV would constitute an undue burden. Although the inventions identified by the Examiner are separately patentable, both the need for compact prosecution and the public interest would be served by examination of claims 1-10 and 12-16 in a single application.

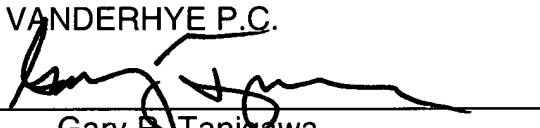
In accordance with the Commissioner's Notice of March 26, 1996 (1184 OG 86) implementing the Federal Circuit's decisions of *In re Ochiai*, 37 USPQ2d 1127 (1995) and *In re Brouwer*, 37 USPQ2d 1663 (1996), rejoinder of process claims is requested upon an indication that a product claim is allowable.

Applicants earnestly solicit an early and favorable examination on the merits. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned if any further information is required.

Respectfully submitted,

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